Planning Commission has also approved an amount of Rs. 110.00 crores to the Govt. of Maharashtra for sports infrastructure for Commonwealth Youth Games, 2008 to be held in Pune, as a sub-event of the main Commonwealth games 2010.

Pending applications for fund allocation

†*511. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Governmental voluntary organizations whose applications, including complete projects, from the State of Uttarakhand, especially from Pauri Garhwal for the year 2007-08 are pending in the Department of Youth Affairs for fund allocation, and

(b) if so, by when funds would be allotted to such organizations and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In all 13 proposals were received from voluntary organizations from the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2006-07 under four youth welfare schemes namely Development and Empowerment of Adolescents, Promotion of National Integration, Promotion of Adventure and Promotion of Youth Activities and Training. Out of these, 8 proposals have been considered and five proposals, which were found in order, were approved. The remaining 5 proposals will be taken up for consideration during the year 2007-08. There is no delay. There is no proposal from Pauri Garhwal in the list of 13 proposals received in the Ministry.

Special cell for indian women married to NRIs

*512. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established a special cell to solve the grievances of the Indian women married to NRI husbands and being harassed;

(b) if so, how many cases have been registered so far in connection with the harassment by NRI husbands; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps Government are taking to solve the grievances of such victimized women?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Ministry has assigned the work to deal with such cases to a Director level officer who is looking after this work in addition to her other duties in the Ministry. The Ministry has so far received 118 representations in connection with harassment by NRI husbands which have been referred to the State Governments/Indian Missions concerned for taking appropriate action in the matter. The Ministry has introduced a scheme to provide legal/counseling services to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses through Indian Missions abroad. An awareness/publicity campaign to make people aware of such issues has been launched by way of publication of guidance booklet, distribution of multi-lingual pamphlets, seminars and scrolls on TV etc.

Delay in NH projects

*513. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not been able to complete the National Highway projects within the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NHAI frequently seeks extension for the completion of projects; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has completed about 95% of golden Quardrilateral (GO) (National Highways Development Project Phase-I) as on date. The balance work as not been completed due to various reasons such as rescrinding and re-awarding of the contracts of non-performing contractors, delay in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, Environment/Forest/Railways clearances etc.

North South & East West (NS & EW) corridor (National Highways Development Project Phase-ll) is likely to be completed by December,